

Annotation

Folk religiosity during High Middle Ages and Early Modern times as reflected in material culture (the example of small ceramic sculpture)

This work focuses on study of religious practice and urban everyday life of urban folk groups in Prague Towns from High Middle Ages till Early Modern times. The most common archaeological artifacts reflecting religious practice are small clay figurines found both in urban and in rural environment. These figurines made of fired clay depict in most cases Madonna with Christ-child and various saints, nevertheless profane figurines and various zoomorphic artifacts can be found too. This work is focused mainly on findings of clay figurines obtained during the large archeological excavation on Republic Square in Prague, which offered a unique collection of artifacts dated from 1250 to 1600. Analogies from the Central Europe will be considered in the process of evaluation of the assemblage mentioned above. It is not known exactly what the purpose of these artifacts was and it is still a subject of discussion, into which we will try to bring some new light. Right iconographic interpretation requires a comparison with some other objects of folk religiosity and urban everyday life (such as medallions and other small holy objects, pilgrim signs, pilgrimage pictures, etc.). This study will be supplemented with an illustrated catalogue of finds including the detailed description, photographic and drawing documentation.

Keywords

archeological research, clay figurines, folk religiosity, small holy objects, folk art, material culture